

Dying apartheid's doyen to be honoured

PRETORIA — While apartheid crumbles, Pretoria is to get a new monument to the policy's leading architect.

The city council has agreed that a monument to former Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd should be erected as part of a new R214m city centre development.

A council spokesman insisted yesterday the monument would be in recognition of Verwoerd's part in leading SA towards becoming a republic, and not for his role in designing "grand apartheid".

The monument will be erected on part of a three-stage development bounded by

GERALD REILLY

Church, Vermeulen, Van der Walt and Prinsloo streets.

Just a stone's throw from the intended site is the huge bust of Verwoerd's predecessor, Hans Strijdom.

Private sector organisations which will be responsible for financing two of the project's three stages want to call the area Sammy Marks Square after the friend and confidante of President Paul Kruger.

A council spokesman said last night the city's place names committee would decide what to call the square in which the monument would be situated.

City planning director Fritz Kraehmer said the Hendrik Verwoerd Trust would make the final decision on whether to erect a statue or some other form of monument. The trust would also pay for it.

Sapa reports Kraehmer said the council would look ridiculous if it refused to have the square named after Verwoerd.

"If we are to denigrate previous politicians, we'll have to pull down buildings, bridges and hospitals," Kraehmer said.